

Iowa Department of Public Health

✓ The Check-Up

An update on issues and ideas related to health reform in Iowa

The Check-Up is a monthly health care reform newsletter designed to keep interested Iowans up to date on the progress of health reform initiatives assigned to IDPH.

The Check-Up will feature updates on activities of active health reform councils and other activities as authorized by [HF 2539](#) (2008).

If you are interested in learning more about a specific council or project, at the end of this newsletter you will find a web link to more information including minutes, agendas handouts, and reports.

The Check-Up will be archived on the main IPDH Health Care Reform Website at http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hcr_committees/

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Electronic Health Information Advisory Council

In December 2009, based on recommendations from the recently approved [Privacy and Security Report](#), the e-Health Executive Committee and Advisory Council established an Iowa e-Health Consumer Interest Group. This group will be a forum for consumers to: 1) learn about Iowa e-Health related topics and policies; 2) provide feedback regarding e-Health planning and implementation; and 3) help communicate the vision and goals of Iowa e-Health to other Iowa consumers. The group will be comprised of six consumer members from each of Iowa's local public health regions. Additionally, representatives from consumer advocacy organizations will be invited to attend the meetings to learn about e-Health and provide additional guidance to the consumer members.

Iowa e-Health is currently seeking consumers interested in serving on the Consumer Interest Group. For more information or to access the Consumer Interest Participation Form, please visit www.idph.state.ia.us/hcr_committees/electronic_health_info.asp.

Also in December, the federal government issued proposed regulations on the definition of "meaningful use" and the initial set of standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria for EHR technology. The proposed regulations establish the requirements that Medicare and Medicaid providers must abide by in order to receive incentives, beginning in 2011. The proposed regulations are open for public comment through February, and are available at <http://healthit.hhs.gov>.

**Next Meetings: January 22nd 10:00 -2:00 at Grimes Building ICN Room (Des Moines)
February 19th 10:00 -2:00 at Grimes Building ICN Room (Des Moines)**

Medical Home System Advisory Council

The Medical Home System Advisory Council Progress Report #1 is available [here](#).

The Council had a conference call on Tuesday, January 12th from 12:00 – 1:00.

Iowa recently submitted their application for the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) Quality Demonstration Grant funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Iowa's application is titled *Navigating the Neighborhood: Improving Child Health Quality*. The project will be organized around a medical neighborhood model of care. Notice of award will be given by February 22nd, 2010.

- The goal the grant is to establish and evaluate a national quality system for children's health care which encompasses care provided through the Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). It will:

1. experiment with and evaluate the use of new and existing measures of quality for children covered by Medicaid & CHIP
2. promote the use of health information technology (HIT) for delivery of care for children covered by Medicaid and CHIP
3. evaluate provider-based models to improve the delivery of Medicaid and CHIP children's health care services;
4. demonstrate the impact of the model electronic health record (EHR) format for children on improving pediatric health, and pediatric health care quality as well as reducing health care costs

Iowa was chosen as one of eight states for the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) Consortium to Advance Medical Homes for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Participants. Iowa's NASHP team attended the Consortium's kick-off learning session in Baltimore, Maryland in October and had a technical assistance conference call with NASHP on January 6th. NASHP staff will be coming to Iowa for a more in depth technical assistance site visit in March. To view the press release click [here](#).

Next Meeting: February 19th 10:00-3:00 at Urbandale Public Library

Patient Autonomy in Health Care Decisions in Pilot Project Advisory Council (IPOST)

The final report of the Patient Autonomy in Health Care Decisions Pilot Project is available [here](#).

The Iowa Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (IPOST) pilot project began in Cedar Rapids in late 2008 as a result of legislative language included in HF 2539. This is a report of the Cedar Rapids pilot and of the deliberations of the State Advisory Council convened to hear the pilot report and deliberate directions for Iowa.

The report includes the recommendations both of the local pilot committee and of the state Advisory Council. The executive summary provides an overview of the total project and the project narrative describes the movement of this work across the nation as well as the issues that are driving forces and barriers to implementation of this community based end of life decision making network.

Health and Long-Term Care Access Advisory Council

Phase 1 of the Strategic Plan for Health Care Delivery Infrastructure and Health Care Workforce Resources has been completed. It is available [here](#).

Next Meeting: January 28th 10:00 – 3:00 at the West Des Moines Learning Resource Center

Prevention and Chronic Care Management Advisory Council

The Prevention and Chronic Care Management Advisory Council Initial Report is available [here](#).

The Council last met on December 4th in which a panel of mental health experts came to share important information and strategies to the Council. The Department of Aging presented to the Council their Iowa Healthy Links Chronic Disease Self-Management Program. It is a workshop given in a community setting, such as senior centers, churches, libraries and hospitals. Workshops are conducted by two trained leaders, one or both of whom have health conditions themselves or have a family member that does.

PCCM Advisory Council staff continues to monitor the Legislative Health Care Coverage Commission and offer information and assistance as requested. The Commission completed their progress report to the General Assembly which summarizes the Commission's activities from September through December 2009. The report can be found [here](#).

PCCM Advisory Council staff is working with other chronic disease programs at IDPH and the Iowa Nebraska Primary Care Association to pilot a few chronic disease management and consumer engagement strategies at a couple local community health centers. This collaboration may include access to chronic disease population data from the CHC's disease registry.

A small workgroup of PCCM Advisory Council members has been formed to discuss what would be needed from a statewide chronic disease registry to help address chronic diseases in Iowa from a population level. They will be meeting via conference call on January 19th.

The Council is currently working on finalizing their first issue brief "Chronic Disease Management". The purpose of the issues briefs are to expand on the six broad recommendations laid out in the initial report. The issue briefs will be very fundamental and informative, with added strategies for implementation.

Next Meeting: February 5th 10:00 -3:00 at Urbandale Public Library

Direct Care Worker Advisory Council

The Direct Care Worker Advisory Council report is available [here](#).

The December 10th council meeting was cancelled due to weather, and there are no further updates at this time.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 21st 10:00- 3:00 at Johnston Public Library

Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Nutrition



Youth Individual Challenge: The Live Healthy Iowa Kids/Governor's Challenge will begin January 19, 2010. One adult captain with 5 to 30 youth comprise a team. During the 100 day challenge, teams will track their physical activity, television time, and fruit, vegetable, low-fat milk and water intake. Supporting classroom activities will be available that align with the Iowa Core Curriculum. For more information click [here](#).

School Challenge: The Governor's Council has agreed to support the criteria of the USDA's HealthierUS School Challenge (click here) for the HealthierUS School Challenge criteria.

The Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Nutrition has developed 12 strength training exercises, in instructional picture format, for use as a resource. The exercises have been posted [here](#). Physical Education teachers have been asked to pilot the exercises and provide feedback.

Healthy Iowa Awards: The Council partnered with the Wellness Council of Iowa to provide Healthy Iowa awards for communities, schools, colleges, and visionaries in October, 2009.

The Governor's Council's new website is now active: www.healthyiowa.gov.

Next Meetings: January 28th, 8:30 am -1:30 pm, Judicial Building,
March 25th location TBD

Iowa Healthy Communities Initiative

Technical assistance, provided by the IDPH health promotion staff, is one component of the Iowa Community Wellness Grant model. Training has been provided to the 2009-10 Community Wellness Grant projects in the areas of coalition development, program evaluation, and sustainability. Additionally, technical assistance is provided to each individual Community Wellness Grant project by a member of the IDPH health promotion team on a routine basis.

For a brief description of the 2009-10 Community Wellness Grants, click [here](#).

Small Business Qualified Wellness Program Tax Credit Plan

Click [here](#) for a copy of the plan. A small business worksite wellness toolkit is being developed as part of a separate, but supportive, project for the Iowans Fit for Life worksite wellness initiative. The toolkit is projected to be completed by the Fall of 2010.